CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Original)

A radiographic contrast medium comprising a liposome which is comprised of vesicles including a water-soluble nonionic iodine compound, and the contrast medium containing substantially no chlorinated solvent.

2. (Original)

The contrast medium of claim 1, wherein the liposome is prepared by a process of (a) making a phospholipid with a supercritical carbon dioxide or a subcritical carbon dioxide and (b) bringing a water-soluble nonionic iodine compound into contact with the phospholipid to form the liposome.

3. (Original)

The contrast medium of claim 1, wherein the liposome is comprised substantially of unilamellar vesicles.

4. (Currently Amended)

The contrast medium of claim 1, wherein the iodine compound contains at least one ~~2,4,6-triiodopheny~~ 2,4,6-triiodophenyl group.

5. (Original)

The contrast medium of claim 1, wherein the vesicles have an average vesicle size of 0.05 to 0.5 μm.

6. (Original)

The contrast medium of claim 5, wherein the average vesicle size is 0.05 to 0.2 μm.

7. (Currently Amended)

The contrast medium of claim 6, wherein the average vesicle is 0.11 to 0.13~~m~~ μm.

8. (Original)

The contrast medium of claim 1, wherein the vesicles each comprise a lipid membrane modified with a polyethylene glycol having 10 to 3500 oxyethylene units in an amount of 0.1% to 30% by weight, based on lipid forming the vesicles.

9. (Original)

The contrast medium of claim 1, wherein the liposome is one which has been filtered with a filter having 0.1 to 0.4 μm pores.

10. (Original)

The contrast medium of claim 1, wherein the vesicles include the iodine compound in a weight ratio of the iodine compound to vesicular membrane lipid of 1 to 10.

11. (Original)

The contrast medium of claim 10, wherein the weight ratio is 3 to 8.

12. (Original)

The contrast medium of claim 11, wherein the weight ratio is 5 to 8.

13. (Original)

The contrast medium of claim 1, wherein the iodine compound included in the vesicles accounts for 5% to 30% by weight of a total iodine compound amount of the contrast medium.

14. (Original)

The contrast medium of claim 1, wherein the vesicles each comprise a lipid membrane and a water phase included inside the lipid membrane, the lipid membrane contains at least a compound selected from the group consisting of

compounds containing a polyoxyalkylene group and sterols and the water phase contains the iodine compound.

15. (Original)

The contrast medium of claim 1, wherein the vesicles each comprise a lipid membrane and a water phase included inside the lipid membrane, the lipid membrane contains a phospholipid modified with a polyalkylene oxide and the water phase contains the iodine compound.

16. (Original)

The contrast medium of claim 1, wherein the vesicles each comprise a lipid membrane and a water phase included inside the lipid membrane, the lipid membrane contains a block copolymer of polyethylene oxide and polypropylene oxide and the water phase contains the iodine compound.

17. (Original)

The contrast medium of claim 1, wherein the vesicles which comprise a lipid membrane and a water phase included inside the lipid membrane, are dispersed in an aqueous medium, both of the water phase and the aqueous medium contain the iodine compound and an additive and each of an iodine compound concentration and an additive concentration

is substantially the same in both of the water phase and the aqueous medium.

18. (Original)

The contrast medium of claim 17, wherein the additive is a water-soluble amine type buffering agents or a chelating agent.

19. (Original)

The contrast medium of claim 18, wherein the amine type buffering agent is trometamol.

20. (Original)

The contrast medium of claim 18, wherein the chelating agent is EDTA disodium calcium.

21. (Original)

A method of preparing a radiographic contrast medium comprising the steps of:

(a) mixing a phospholipid with a supercritical carbon dioxide or a subcritical carbon dioxide to form a mixture and

(b) bringing a water-soluble nonionic iodine compound into contact with the phospholipid to form a liposome comprised of vesicles including the iodine compound.

22. (Original)

The method of claim 21, wherein the method comprises the steps of:

(a) mixing a phospholipid with a supercritical carbon dioxide or a subcritical carbon dioxide to form a mixture,

(b) introducing an aqueous solution containing a nonionic iodine compound into the mixture and

(c) discharging the carbon dioxide to form a liposome comprised of vesicles including the iodine compound.

23. (Original)

The method of claim 21, wherein step (a), the carbon dioxide is under a pressure of 50 to 500 kg/cm^2.

24. (Original)

The method of claim 21, wherein in step (a), the carbon dioxide is under a temperature of 25 to 200 °C.

25. (Currently Amended)

The method of claim 22, wherein in step (a), at least one compound selected from the group consisting of a phospholipid modified with a polyalkylene oxide, a compound containing a polyoxyalkylene group, a compound containing a polyethylene glycol group and a sterol is further mixed to form said mixture; the method further comprises

(d) filtering the liposome with a filter having 0.1 to 0.4 μm pores.

26. (Original)

The method of claim 22, wherein in step (a), a phospholipid modified with a polyalkylene oxide or a sterol is further mixed; in step (b), an additive is further introduced; the method further comprises

(d) filtering the liposome with a filter having of 0.1 to 0.4 μm pores,

and wherein the vesicles which comprise a lipid membrane and a water phase included inside the lipid membrane, are dispersed in an aqueous medium, both of the water phase and the aqueous medium contain the iodine compound and the additive and each of an iodine compound concentration and an additive concentration is substantially the same in both of the water phase and the aqueous medium.